MEDICAL RECORD	Dobutamine Stress Echocardiography Consent

You are being seen to develop an initial evaluation of your heart status, as follow-up after participating in a research study, or after receiving treatment within the Cardiology Branch. Your physician has determined that a Dobutamine Stress Echocadiogram is a necessary part of your evaluation in order to: provide information about your heart; to guide our management of your heart disease; or, to provide follow-up information for a research study in which you are a participant. Such tests are commonly performed on patients in private physicians' offices and community hospitals.

This test measures the function of your heart muscle at rest and under conditions similar to exercise. By identifying changes in the function of the heart muscle, we may be able to tell if it suffers from lack of oxygen during exercise or other forms of stress, or if it is permanently damaged.

The information derived from the study will be used as part of the clinical assessment of your condition during your stay at the Clinical Center. In addition, the results of this test may also be used as part of ongoing research studies.

Echocardiography (high frequency sound waves) is used to see and record the movement and function of the heart muscle. The echocardiogram is obtained by placing an instrument called a transducer against your chest wall. Increasing doses of a medication called dobutamine will be given to make your heart beat faster and stronger. The medication will be given through a fine tube into a vein of your arm. If your heart rate does not reach the desired level after the maximum dose of dobutamine is given, an additional medication called atropine may be needed to achieve the target heart rate.

A physician and a nurse will be present during the procedure and the recovery. Throughout the study and for several minutes after the test has been completed, your blood pressure and heart rhythm will be monitored. The content of oxygen in your blood will be measured continuously with a light sensor that you will wear on your finger. The test will be terminated if any severe symptoms or side effects develop.

Echocardiography is not associated with any known side effects. The incidence of serious side effects from dobutamine (for example, the development of an abnormal heart rhythm) is very low (1-3%) and is reversed promptly when the drug is stopped. If the abnormal heart rhythm does not cease spontaneously after the infusion of dobutamine is stopped, a drug that slows the rhythm of your heart (beta-blocker) may be necessary to restore your normal heart rhythm. The most common side effects that you may experience are nausea, headache, chest pain, palpitations, and shortness of breath. None of these are serious and will disappear within minutes after stopping the infusion.

It is expected that the study will take approximately 30 minutes. If you are an inpatient, you wlll then be escorted back to your room. If you are an outpatient, you will then be discharged to home.

I have read this explanation about this test and have been given the opportunity to discuss it and ask questions. I hereby consent to take part in the test.

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(Signature of Adult Patient/Parent of Minor)	(Date)
_____	_____
(Signature of Physician)	(Date)
_____	_____
(Signature of Witness)	(Date)